Attack on BSF convoy

329. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the terrorists attacked a BSF convoy on Jammu-Srinagar highway on 23rd May, 2004 killing and injuring many persons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether responsibility has been fixed for negligence of our own patrolling;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to take disciplinary action against the negligent personnel/parties, whose responsibility was to keep the road free from explosives being laid and to nab the culprit and to ensure that such incidents do not recur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) A Border Security Force (BSF) bus was caught in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) explosion on 23.5.2004 near lower Munda on the National Highway between Jawahar Tunnel and Qazigund, Distt. Anantnag while moving from Srinagar to Jammu as part of a BSF convoy.

A total of 31 people were killed including 14 BSF personnel and 17 members of their family. Three persons were injured.

(c) to (e) A Court of Inquiry, ordered into the incident, held one Assistant Commandant, two Head Constables and three Constables of CRPF responsible for not performing the ROP (Road Opening Party) duties properly. The ROP's on this stretch of National Highway is being manned by CRPF. Besides this, Government has directed the concerned authorities of the Security Forces to take measures to make ROP more effective.

A case having FIR No. 119/04 U/S 302, 307 RPC, 3 PSS/Act has been registered.

On 16.6.2004 troops of 64 Bn. CRPF apprehended one suspect Mustaq Ahmed of Doda district who confessed his involvement in planting the said IED on 23.5.2004. Later on 19.6.2004, Security Forces, in an encounter in Anantnag, killed one Hizbul Muzahidin terrorist, who was also reportedly involved in planting the said IED.